



PAPERS DATED: June 16 2004

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For "Shopping Aid"

Exhibit A –
a mark-up copy of the proposed changes:

pp 29, 30, 33, 36, 38, 39

Please note that claims have been renumbered over priority filing document in preparation for publication. Scannable copy submitted to OIPE contains all the changes documented here.

[0099] Figure 14 is a conceptual view of a 3-legged hybrid shopping basket/vehicle. Note also that the control release mechanism has been modified. The front scissors-leg (14.4) pivots at an intermediate crossbeam with the rear legs. Elements in the design of vehicles of this type can be extracted from Marcouiller (US 2,531,856) and Dirkin (US 1,081,221), which are incorporated by reference here as if reproduced in full. The trigger and control handle (14.6) mechanism is also modified, shown here in a front position on the shopping basket.

[0100] The hybrid shopping basket/vehicle combinations of the invention have in common:

1. a shopping basket, said shopping basket further being generally lightweight for carrying, of a material selected from rigid or semi-rigid, and having rim, base, and walls not foldable or disassemblable;
2. a plurality of legs attached at pivots to said shopping basket, further pivoting between a legs-up configuration wherein said plurality of legs are triggerably cocked and secured generally parallel to said base when undeployed, and a legs-down configuration wherein said plurality of legs stand upright and lock when deployed;
3. a means for releasably securing said plurality of legs generally apposed to the base of said shopping basket in a legs-up configuration;
4. a means for triggering release and deployment of said plurality of legs from said legs-up configuration to said legs-down configuration;
5. when freestanding in said legs-down configuration, inferiorly attached wheels for wheeling said shopping basket as a wheeled vehicle from place to place.

[0101] The device may also have an undercarriage from which the pivoting legs append, and the undercarriage with legs may be separable and detachable from the basket for easy replacement or cleaning.

[0102] These hybrid shopping basket/vehicle combinations are specially adapted for a method of shopping comprising the steps of:

1. At times when carrying a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 1, a step for triggering deployment of said legs and inferiorly attached wheels, whereupon said shopping basket may be freestandingly rested on said legs and inferiorly attached wheels;
2. At times when said shopping basket is freestandingly rested on said legs and inferiorly attached wheels, a step for rolling said shopping basket as a wheeled vehicle from place to place.

[0103] The embodiments of a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle and methods of use described herein describe the invention so that it may be practiced, but do not limit the invention to the embodiments only as described. The invention is inclusive of any accessory elements, variants or modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art upon study of this disclosure.

EXAMPLE 1

[0104] A 1:1 scale model of the triggering release mechanism and mechanical train of Figure 4 was built. The compound scissors tongs and center arm disk were cut from acrylic sheet with a band saw. The detent receiver and detent pin are dimensioned in Figures 3 and 4 from the model. Using the custom-built scissors tongs, the flying crossplates and their slots in the longitudinal beams were then sized and designed. The mechanism was demonstrated to operate essentially as shown in Figures 5 through 8. A

6. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 3 wherein said legs lock in the legs-down position by spring action.
7. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 1 wherein said plurality of legs, releasably secured in the legs-up configuration, are triggeringly deployed from said legs-up configuration to said legs-down configuration while carrying said shopping basket.
8. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 1 weighing less than 12 pounds (5.44 kg), more preferably less than 6 pounds (2.72 kg), and most preferably less than 3 pounds (1.36 kg).
9. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 1 wherein said hybrid shopping basket/vehicle, freestanding on legs deployed and wheels contacting a generally level and firm underlying surface, is stably supported so that said base of said shopping basket is stably elevated and generally level at a height ~~equal to or greater than the length of said open basket~~ equal to at least 50% of the length of said base, more preferably 75% and most preferably 90% of the length of said base.
10. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a means for braking that acts on at least one said wheel.
11. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle claim 1 wherein said shopping basket is injection molded of a plastic.
12. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 11, wherein said shopping basket is injection molded with an integral undercarriage.

being compound legs, and said inferiorly attached wheels being appended to said lower shelf.

22. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 20 further comprising at least one basket handle attached at the rim of said shopping basket.
23. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 20, wherein said shopping basket is injection molded from a plastic.
24. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 20 weighing less than 12 pounds (5.44 kg), more preferably less than 6 pounds (2.72 kg), and most preferably less than 3 pounds (1.36 kg).
25. A hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 20 wherein said shopping basket/vehicle, freestanding on legs deployed and wheels contacting a generally level and firm underlying surface, is stably supported so that said base of said shopping basket is stably elevated and generally level at a height ~~equal to or greater than the length of said base~~ equal to at least 50% of the length of said base, more preferably 75% and most preferably 90% of the length of said base.
26. A specially adapted method for shopping comprising:
 - a) At times when carrying a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 1, a step for triggering deployment of said legs and inferiorly attached wheels, whereupon said shopping basket may be freestandingly rested on said legs and inferiorly attached wheels;
 - b) At times when said shopping basket is freestandingly rested on said legs and inferiorly attached wheels, a step for rolling said shopping basket as a wheeled vehicle from place to place.

- e) wheels attached inferiorly to said lower shelf for wheeling said shopping basket as a wheeled vehicle from place to place.
- 31. A specially adapted method for shopping comprising use of a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 30.
 - 32. A specially adapted method for shopping of claim 31 comprising:
 - a) At times when carrying a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle, a step for triggering deployment of said compound legs and wheels, whereupon said shopping basket may be freestandingly rested on said legs and wheels;
 - b) At times when said shopping basket is freestandingly rested on said legs and inferiorly attached wheels, a step for rolling said shopping basket as a wheeled vehicle from place to place.
 - 33. A method for shopping as recited in claim 32, further comprising a step for placing goods on said lower shelf.
 - 34. An article of manufacture comprising a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 30.
 - 35. A business method comprising a business model further comprising keeping spreadsheet records of inventory and sales performance, and having at least one step selected from the list:
 - a) providing a customer with a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim ~~11~~ 1;
 - b) providing to a merchant by sale or lease a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim ~~11~~ 1;

- c) providing to a customer a kit for assembly of a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim ~~44~~ 1; or,
 - d) providing to a customer a part for repair of a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim ~~44~~ 1.
36. A business model comprising keeping spreadsheet records of inventory and sales performance, and having at least one step selected from the list consisting of:
- a) providing a customer with a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 30;
 - b) providing to a merchant by sale or lease a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 30;
 - c) providing to a customer a kit for assembly of a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 30; and,
 - d) providing to a customer a part for repair of a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 30.